

IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING

Please replace the Sequence Listing with the substitute Sequence Listing submitted herewith.

*placed before*

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 31-33, and add new claims 34-47 as follows:

*Subc 1*  
31. (Amended) A synthetic peptide comprising a regulatory virus protein R (Vpr) of the human immunodeficiency virus type 1(HIV-1) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

32. (Amended) A fragment of the synthetic peptide of claim 1, consisting of a peptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a 20 amino acid Vpr protein ( $\delta$ Vpr<sup>1-20</sup> or  $\delta$ Vpr<sup>21-40</sup>; SEQ ID NO: 8 and 9, respectively);
- (b) a 47 amino acid N-terminal peptide ( $\delta$ Vpr<sup>1-47</sup>);
- (c) a 49 amino acid long C-terminal peptide ( $\delta$ Vpr<sup>48-96</sup>); or
- (d) a fragment of at least 15 amino acids of any one of (a)-(c).

*B25*

33. (Amended) The synthetic peptide/fragment of claim 32, wherein the fragment consists of:

- (a)  $\delta$ Vpr<sup>11-25</sup> (SEQ ID NO: 4);
- (b)  $\delta$ Vpr<sup>41-55</sup> (SEQ ID NO: 5);
- (c)  $\delta$ Vpr<sup>46-60</sup> (SEQ ID NO: 6); or
- (d)  $\delta$ Vpr<sup>56-70</sup> (SEQ ID NO: 7).

34. (New) The synthetic peptide of claim 31 bound to a second molecule, wherein the second molecule comprises a DNA or protein molecule.

35. (New) The synthetic peptide fragment of claim 32 bound to a second molecule, wherein the second molecule comprises a DNA or protein molecule.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the synthetic peptide of claim 31 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

*Sub. 27*  
37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the synthetic peptide fragment of claim 32 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the synthetic peptide of claim 34 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the synthetic peptide fragment of claim 35 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

40. (New) A method of producing synthetic peptides derived from the regulatory virus protein R (Vpr) of HIV-1, the method comprising:

*B26*  
*contd.* (a) synthesizing C-terminal Vpr peptides on a serine resin; and

(b) synthesizing N-terminal Vpr peptides on a polystyrene polyoxyethylene resin;

wherein chain elongation of the peptides is performed using fluoromethyloxycarbonyl (FMOC) protection.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

(c) cleaving protection groups using a cleavage mixture comprising 95% trifluoracetic acid (TFA), 3% triisopropylsilane and 2-5% ethyandithiol.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising purifying the peptides by HPLC on a column of silica gel using a linear gradient of TFA and water in acetonitrile.